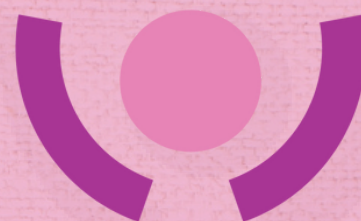




# Adolescent Girls Investment Plan

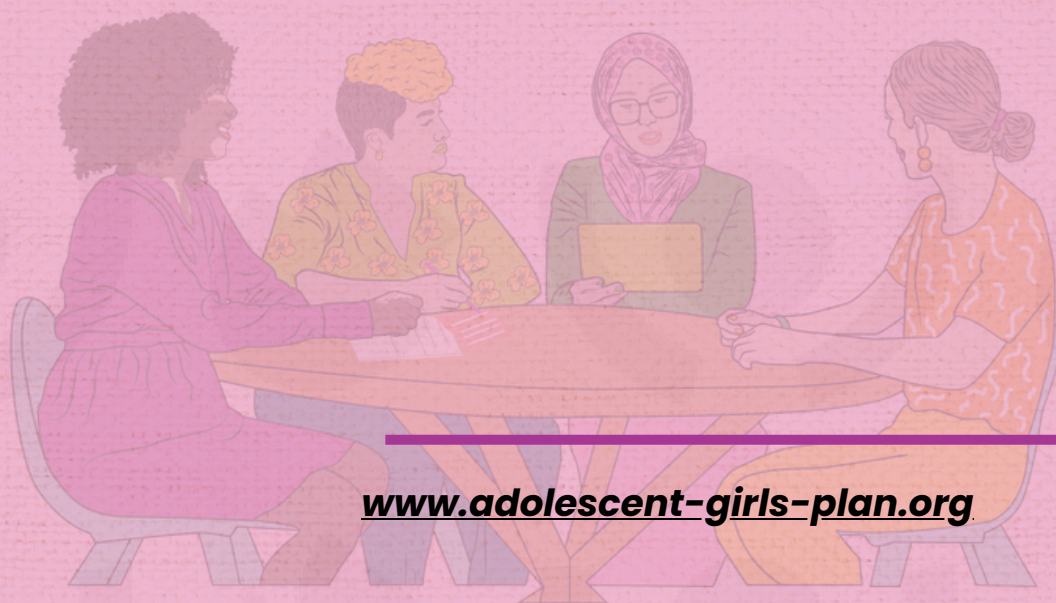


## AGIP's Champions Event at the Sidelines of CSW 68

## IN CONVERSATION WITH ADOLESCENT GIRLS: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GIRLS' ALLY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

15 MARCH 2024 | UNFPA HQ, NY

### SUMMARY REPORT



[www.adolescent-girls-plan.org](http://www.adolescent-girls-plan.org)



# INTRODUCTION

On 15 March 2024, the **Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP)** and the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** co-hosted "In Conversation with Adolescent Girls: What it means to be girls' ally on the Global Stage" on the sidelines of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68).

The event, held at UNFPA, opened with a **high-level, intergenerational panel** featuring girl leaders and the government representatives of Canada, Kenya, USA & Sierra Leone followed by a **multistakeholder workshop session**. The UNFPA and UN Youth Office shared opening and closing remarks respectively.



1.1 Precious, Girl Leader & Co-moderator

**"Meaningful inclusion means nothing about us without us."**

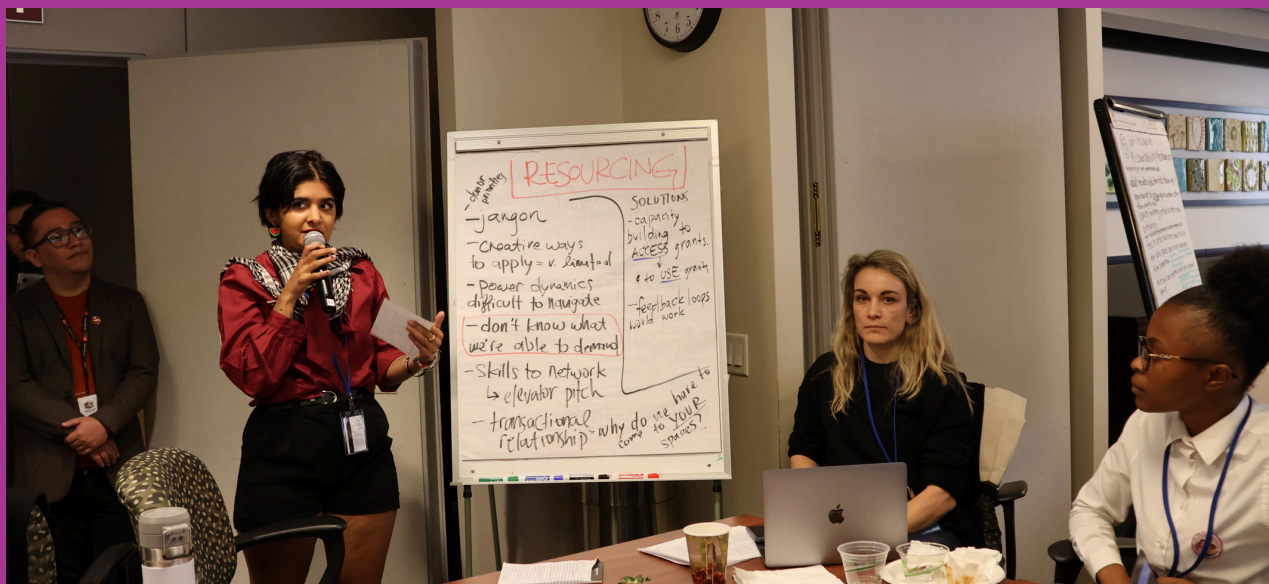
**NOSIPHO, GIRL LEADER AND PANELIST**



1.2 A Section of participants and panelists during the High-Level Panel Discussion

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The event emphasised the need for allyship and collaboration to ensure girls' voices and leadership in global decision-making spaces – and catalysed collective action towards working with and for adolescent girls worldwide, especially in the lead-up to CPD and Summit of the Future. Over the next few months, AGIP will continue engaging with governments and other high-level stakeholders like UN bodies to initiate a group that can centre girls' leadership and champion girl-centric accountability mechanisms at key global policy and advocacy platforms. We encourage each of you to continue partnering with us to take concrete actions based on these recommendations and next steps. We are grateful for your engagement and look forward to more collaboration opportunities!



1.3 'Resourcing Girls' Workshop participants, including girls, UNFPA & GAGE

## GIRL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Governments and power-holding entities should **prioritise funding mechanisms that enable girls to lead** and participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.
2. Intergovernmental forums such as the Summit of the Future should have **dedicated engagement mechanisms for girls**, including capacity-strengthening for girls before advocacy moments, with actively-involved adolescent girls included in high-level political negotiations and policy arenas. There should be follow-up after these engagements with girls.
3. **Accountability mechanisms must be revised to be more girl-inclusive**, ensuring that girls' voices are heard and valued in post-commitment actions. These should be designed before commitment moments so that clear objectives and action items committed during the advocacy moment can be reported on. This includes clear and easily accessible reporting data, disaggregated by age, gender, and other demographic indicators, on all commitments.
4. Stakeholders, including Member States, UN agencies, and Civil Society Organisations, should **collaborate to provide technical support and resources to each other** so that Member States and Multilateral Institutions can meaningfully and equitably engage to **empower adolescent girls in global advocacy spaces**.

**"Girls' voices are essential for effective policies and programs."**

**KEILIANNA, GIRL LEADER AND PANELIST**



# HIGH-LEVEL PANEL



1.4 From L-R: Helena & Sharon Armstrong (Canada); Nosipho & Harriet Chiggai (Kenya); Keilanna & Varina Winder (USA) and Aline & Dr. Isata Mahoi (Sierra Leone)

**"Government allyship is pivotal for advancing girls' rights."**

**ALINE, GIRL LEADER & PANELIST**

## MULTISTAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Following a health break, some of the participants from the high-Level panel and additional attendees were divided into 5 carefully curated groups.

These multi-stakeholder groups ensured a balance between young people, other key stakeholders and the facilitators, keeping the voices of girls at the centre.

The conversations focused on **meaningful inclusion, resourcing girls, girl-inclusive accountability, and intergovernmental allyship for girls.**

**"Funding should empower girls to lead and drive change."**

**HELENA, YOUNG LEADER AND PANELIST**



**1.5 Workshop**



1.6 Girl leaders with government and civil society leaders including Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, Leyla Sharafi, Global Senior Gender Equality Advisor, UNFPA, Hon. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Kathleen Sherwin, AGIP Co-Chair & Plan CSEO Maliha Khan, CEO Women Deliver and Faith Mwangi-Powell, CEO Girls Not Brides

## EVENT OVERVIEW

The event design ensured **meaningful inclusion of adolescent girls and young people**. Before the event, AGIP organised two preparatory calls for all young participants and their focal points to ensure they had all the necessary information about the event and their roles to engage meaningfully during the multi-stakeholder workshop. The girl leaders were able to engage as equal stakeholders during the event. It was the third in a series of events organised by AGIP on championing girls' rights and leadership in global advocacy and policy spaces, the first two being at the Women Deliver 2023 Conference and UNGA in 2023.

The high-level, intergenerational panel, attended by more than 90 participants including girls, CSOs, UN Agencies and government delegations, was co-moderated by **Precious, a girl leader** from Zambia, and **Kathleen Sherwin, AGIP Co-chair** and Chief Strategy and Engagement Officer at Plan International. The panel featured high-level government officials from the gender and youth ministries of **Canada, Kenya, Sierra Leone**, and the **USA**. Each government representative was paired with a girl leader in a mini-interview format centring on the experience and leadership of girls alongside the government representative speakers.

A closed-door workshop followed, with small, multi-stakeholder groups consisting of girls, governments, multilateral agency leads and girl-centric civil-society representatives enabling further conversations between the girls' rights stakeholders.



# CONNECT

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